DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

VOL. V NO. 4 FEBRUARY 17th 1956 Price: 15 Pf., 5c., 3d

KILLERS ARRESTED

Protest Storm Forces W. German Action

Public pressure from West Germany and other countries has forced the West German authorities to re-arrest several SS concentration camp guards who were released at the beginning of January.

The arrested men, Gustav Sorge (nicknamed "Iron Gustav"), and Wilhelm Schubert ("Pistol Schubert") were both guards at the nazi concentration camp at Sachsenhausen, a few miles north of Berlin. Well over 30,000 persons were murdered in the camp during the course of the war.

The arrests followed massive protests from survivors of Sachsenhausen concentration camp, who swore out warrants charging Sorge, Schubert and three other former guards with murder, torture and a series of other crimes.

Faced by a mass of evidence, and many former prisoners offering to testify, the West German authorities reluctantly proceeded to arrest Sorge and Schubert. The other three camp officials, two of whom had admitted shooting or torturing British prisoners in the camp, were still at large at the time of going to press.

Here is the background to the story:

The five guards, all members of Hitler's black-uniformed SS, were sentenced to life imprisonment in a public trial before a Soviet Military Court in Berlin in 1947. These men, and some hundreds of other nazi criminals guilty of such heinous crimes that they could not be amnestied, were handed over by the Soviet authorities to the West German authorities at the beginning of January, to serve out their sentences in German prisons. They were immediately released by the West German authorities, and granted special monetary "compensation" amounting to 6000 marks (over 500 pounds sterling) each.

The West German resistance fighters have now charged these men with murder, manslaughter and torture, and have named witnesses who can testify to these crimes before a German court.

(cont. on next page)

Democratic "Lufthansa" Starts Service

The "Lufthansa", state airline of the German Democratic Republic, commenced regular air services on February 4th, when the first planes flew the Berlin-Warsaw route. Further services will be added as soon as more planes and personnel are available.

The first machines of the new "Lufthansa" are Soviet-made twin-motor "Ilyushin 14" planes.

"FOREIGN TROOPS SHOULD LEAVE GERMANY"

WARSAW POWERS MAKE NEW PROPOSALS

The powers in both East and West should reach an agreement to withdraw foreign troops from Germany, or to reduce their strength. This was th new proposal for reducing tension in Europe made by the Warsaw Pact partners at a meeting in Prague at the end of January.

A joint declaration issued on January 29th by the Warsaw pact states (Soviet Union, European People's Democracies and German Democratic Republic) suggested that the great powers, together with the European states, should conclude an agreement on the establishment of a "zone of limited armaments" in central Europe.

This zone should include both parts of Germany, and agreement should be reached to withdraw all foreign troops from Germany, and to limit the size of the armed contingents of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) and the German Federal Republic (West Germany).

The joint declaration stated that the establishment of such a zone would create favourable conditions for the solution of the German problem, and would help to guard European security.

The Prague declaration also proposed that, pending world-wide banning of atomic weapons, a limited agreement should be reached under which the forces stationed in Germany should not be equipped with atomic weapons.

At the Prague meeting it was decided that the People's Army now being created in the German Democratic Republic should now be incorporated in the united forces of the Warsaw pact partners. The Minister for National Defence of the German Democratic Republic, Willi Stoph, will become one of the deputies of the Supreme Commander of these united forces.

(cont. from preceding page)

KILLERS

The original trial of the Sachsenhausen criminals was held in East Berlin in October 1947. British and American correspondents attended the trial, and no suggestion was made at this time that these men were anything else than mass murderers.

The accused were found guilty of murdering more than 60,000 persons in Sachsenhausen during the course of the war. Those murdered were mainly Soviet citizens, Poles, Jews and German antifascists, but evidence was also given of the murder of five British seamen, the crew of an E-boat captured by the nazi navy, as well as American, Dutch und French citizens.

The five men against whom the West German resistance fighters have now filed charges are: August Hoehn, deputy commandant of Sachsenhausen; Heinz Baumkoetter, camp doctor; and the SS-guards Kurt Eccarius, Gustav Sorge und Wilhelm Schubert. All of them pleaded guilty to the charges at their trial in 1947. Here are some short extracts from the statements which several of these criminals made before the Soviet Military Court:

August Hoehn: "I used to beat the prisoners on Saturday. That was my personal day of judgment. I personally drew up the lists of political prisoners who were then shot. Among them were 5 Englishmen, 20 Dutchmen, a few Germans, but mainly Russians . . ."

Heinz Baumkoetter: "I took part in experiments with children. We injected them with jaundice so that we could see what happened. I also took part in experiments with phosphorus. We poured it over the bodies of the prisoners."

Kurt Eccarius: "In cell 14 we had a concrete block, to which prisoners could be chained . . . Two British officers, Best and Stevens, were chained to this block in 1939 und 1940 — Best for six months and Stevens for nine months. (Major Stevens and Captain Best were kidnapped in Holland by nazi agents on November 9th 1939, and held in German concentration camps throughout the war, ed.) During the period I worked in the prison block, about 230 priests were held there. Two of them were shot, the others were sent to Dachau to be liquidated. On February 2nd 1945 a group of 180 men were shot. They included one Englishman charged with sabotage, a Norwegian and about 20 Luxembourgeois."

FIVE YEAR PLAN TRIUMPHS

The First Five Year Plan of the German Democratic Republic, running from 1951—55, has put the German Democratic Republic on the map as a highly-developed industrial state making rapid progress in laying the foundations of socialism.

This was shown in the facts and figures on the fulfillment of the Plan, published in Berlin on February 4th. Here are some of the main points from the report:

1. Industry

Industrial disproportions, resulting from former capitalist development and partitioning of Germany, have been overcome by the development of a metallurgical basis for industry in the Republic, big increases in power production and lignite production, and the reconstruction or building of 25 large heavy machine factories. The targets of the Five Year Plan in gross industrial production were fulfilled, and production at the end of 1955 was over twice as high as the 1936 figure.

Socialist factories were responsible for 77 % of industrial production in 1950: by 1955 the figure had risen to 85 %. Most branches of industry overfulfilled their plan targets: plan targets were not, however, reached in coal briquettes, iron ore and a few other branches.

One of the main industrial achievements was the construction of the "Iron Works West", which was world pioneer in the use of low-shaft foundries for smelting low-grade iron ores with coke made from lignite. The great success of this pioneering work is shown by the fact that iron production by this method is nearly double the projected figure.

Heavy engineering production at the end of 1955 was 127 % above the 1950 figure, and huge machines such as 6000 ton smithy presses are now being produced. In the same period production of agricultural machinery was more than quadrupled.

2. Agriculture

Total agricultural production in 1955 was 44 % higher than the 1950 figure, and socialist agriculture (production cooperatives and nationally owned farms) now accounts for 20 % of total production, compared to only 7 % in 1950.

There have been large increases in livestock figures. Compared to 1950 the 1955 figures showed 30 % more cows, 58 % more pigs, 67 % more sheep, and 63 % more hens. There are not only more animals, but they are much fatter: the weight of pigs slaughtered was double the 1950 figure, although the pig population was only up 58 %.

Most important development in agriculture during the Five Year Plan was the formation of agricultural production cooperatives, which was begun at the end of 1952. By the end of 1955 nearly 200,000 peasants were working in a total of 6000 such cooperatives, tilling one fifth of the total agricultural area.

3. Productivity, Wages and Employment

Average wages rose during the plan period by 48 %, while prices were reduced. Productivity was raised 54 %. Wages increased faster than had been foreseen under the plan, and productivity did not quite reach plan targets.

Unemployment was totally wiped out in the German Democratic Republic, and there is a considerable shortage of trained workers. During the years 1951—1955 more than one million young men and women qualified themselves in trade schools, and one million more men and women in the factories improved their qualifications.

The proportion of women at work is steadily rising. The principle of equal pay for equal work is the principle, without any exception, in the Republic.

4. Investments and Building

Capital investments foreseen in the Five Year Plan totalled 28,610,000,000 marks, and this sum was exceeded in practise. 30 % of the total capital investment sum was devoted to heavy industry.

The building industry exceeded its plan targets in the rebuilding of bomb-shattered towns, the provision of thousands of new houses and apartments, together with hospitals etc. The plan report criticised the fact that the mechanisation and typisation in the building industry had not kept pace with other developments.

5. Foreign Trade

Foreign trade in 1955 was 180 % greater than in 1950. There was a particularly large increase in the export figures for engineering and electrical products, which went up six-fold during the plan period. Export to western countries increased greatly, to over four times the 1950 figure, and today the German Democratic Republic has trade and clearing agreements with more that 20 capitalist countries.

Owing to constant obstacles raised by the West German authorities, it was not possible to increase inner-German trade with West Germany properly, and the figure reached in 1955 was less than double the 1950 figure.

6. Standard of Living

The great increase in industrial and agricultural production increased the national income by 64 % during the First Five Year Plan. An average of 13 % of the national income was devoted to investments during the plan period. The total wage fund was 68 % higher in 1955 than in 1950, and the total income of peasants rose in the same period by 80 %.

Total sales of consumer goods rose during the plan period by 83 %: the quantity of food available rose by 77 %, and the consumption of shoes and textiles was more than doubled. During the same period retail prices were reduced by an average of 32 %.

7. Social Services and Culture

Plan targets in culture and health services were reached in all cases, and in many departments were exceeded. The total number of universities and technical schools of university standard increased from 21 to 47: the number of students increased from 27,600 to 60,100.

The number of hospital beds was increased from 187,300 to 203,000. The number of clinics was increased from 194 to 369, and many hundreds of health centres and first aid stations were established in the countryside.

Particular advances were made in care for mother and child: the number of places in full-time nurseries for children was increased from 8542 in 1950 to 59,500 in 1955. Infant mortality decreased from 7.2 % in 1950 to 4.9 % in 1955.

SPIES SENTENCED TO DIE

President Commutes Sentence

Two agents of American military espionage organisations were sentenced to death by the Supreme Court of the German Democratic Republic on January 26th. A third spy was sentenced to life imprisonment, and a fourth to eight years imprisonment.

Evidence was given to the court that the accused had not only engaged in military espionage for a long period, but had also used threats and pressure to encourage East German specialists to flee to West Germany.

Western newspapers, reporting the sentences, suppressed the evidence given of espionage activities, and claimed that the accused had been sentenced solely for "helping flights to the west".

In fact, the men sentenced to death were found guilty of the following offences:

1. Military espionage for the US Central Intelligence Agency.
2. Economic espionage, including the stealing of blue-prints and samples of new technical developments on the secret list.
3. The recruiting of key technicians for flight to West Germany, and using all sorts of threats and pressure for this purpose.

Evidence presented to the court included copies of files from the Central Intelligence Agency, showing that Max Held and Werner Rudert, the two men sentenced to death, had been paid agents of the US espionage service for several years. All the accused made full statements in open court admitting their guilt.

* * *

On February 9th, Wilhelm Pieck, President of the German Democratic Republic, announced that he had commuted the death sentences to life imprisonment. President Pieck's official statement said: "The sentence passed on Max Held and Werner Rudert is justified by the heinousness of the crimes which they committed... In order to show the entire German people that the German Democratic Republic, for its part, is ready to make a contribution to the relaxation of international tension... I have exercised my constitutional right to commute the sentence."

OPEN-DOOR YOUTH WEEK

Factories, government offices, schools and other institutions in Democratic Germany will organise a special "open-door week" for young people in March this year. During this week, ministers, factory directors, headmasters and so on will hold open house to answer the questions of young people, and listen to their criticisms.

"Open-door week" is only one of the features of the 1956 Youth Plan, published by the Government of the German Democratic Republic on February 3rd. The plan also outlines big extensions in the aid given to young people in education, professional training, sport and recreation.

Under the 1956 plan a total of 2,500,000,000 marks are to be devoted to all forms of youth work. An increasing number of young industrial workers are to be encouraged to move to the countryside to improve the work of the agricultural cooperatives.

The recreation programme foresees large increases in the numbers of children and young people going to holiday camps, and on tramping trips in neighbouring countries. More young workers will be sent abroad to help in the assembly of machines and complete factories exported by the German Democratic Republic.

The system of youth club houses in town and country is to be even further extended, and 350 television receivers have already been ordered for such club houses. Large quantities of film cameras will also be made available to youth film clubs.

18-Month Call-up Period for West Germans

All 20-year-olds in West Germany will be called up for military service in the new Wehrmacht, under the terms of a conscription bill approved by the West German cabinet on February 8th.

Under the bill, all German males between the ages of 18 and 45 are liable to military service. Men now over 20 who have had no military training will be called up for a special six-month conscription period. If the bill is passed by parliament the first conscripts will be called up in Autumn 1957.

NAZIS In the News

(In this column GERMAN REPORT will bring you regular information on former nazis and militarists who today occupy key positions in West Germany.)

Otto Braeutigam. *Chief of the Eastern European Department of West German Foreign Office, with the rank of ministerial director. During the Second World War Braeutigam was a high official of the nazi "Ministry for Occupied Eastern Territories". In this capacity he signed a letter on December 18th 1941 ordering the liquidation of the Jews of Latvia "without regard to economic factors." His letter, which led directly to the murder of at least 80,000 Jews, was the reply to a letter from the "Reich Commissar of Eastern Territories", dated November 15th 1941, which stated in part: "I should like to know whether your query of October 21st is to be regarded as a binding instruction to liquidate all Jews in the eastern territories? Should this be done without regard to age, sex, and economic factors?"*

Otto Braeutigam also signed, on March 11th 1942, instructions for the deportation (and subsequent liquidation) of tens of thousands of Rumanian Jews. This letter was produced in evidence at the Nuremberg Trial of the top war criminals, and is reproduced under reference number 3319-PS in volume 32 of the official Nuremberg Trial Documents.

West German Foreign Minister Brentano admitted on January 6th 1955, in reply to a Social Democratic question, that he was aware of Braeutigam's past activities, and that he would be "suspended from duty" while the matter was being investigated.

Edmund Forschbach. *Chief Press Officer of the West German Government, with the rank of ministerial director. Forschbach was a member of Hitler's brown-shirted SA, and member of the first all-nazi Reichstag appointed in November 1933. From July 1933 to March 1934 he was leader of the Catholic Student Association, and in this capacity sent a circular letter to all members of the Association stating in part: "On November 12th (date of nazi elections, ed.) it must be shown that the entire German people support the peace policy of Adolf Hitler's government. If Germany is to regain its liberty, then no doubt must be left that National Socialism and Germany are irrevocably linked and welded."*

BALLOON MENACE

East German Warning

The continued release by Americans in West Germany of propaganda and "weather" balloons could lead to complications which would be prejudicial to the relaxation of international tension, Dr. Johannes Dieckmann, Chairman of the People's Chamber, stated on February 8th.

Dr. Dieckmann, who was speaking to the People's Chamber, stated:

"This infamous American balloon action has seriously endangered flight safety over Europe ... We shall use all means in our power to protect our citizens from the American espionage balloons, which are a serious danger to flight safety. Those concerned would do well to consider that the flight of these American balloons, as well as the air traffic of the western allied countries with Berlin, takes place over the area of air sovereignty of the German Democratic Republic. We utter this warning with the sole aim of preventing danger of life, and of avoiding complications which would be prejudicial to the relaxation of international tension."

Only 3% for People's Army

The new People's Army to be built in the German Democratic Republic will cost less than three percent of total state expenditure, it was officially announced in Berlin on February 8th.

The total budget for 1956 forsees an income from taxes, national industry, and other sources, of 37,136 million marks. Total expenditure on the People's Army and the Ministry of National Defence will be 974 million marks, or well under three percent.

A total of 54% of the budget income will come from the profits of nationally owned industry, trade and agriculture. Only 3.6% of the budget income comes from pay-as-you-earn income tax paid by wage earners.

The largest single item of budget expenditure is the sum devoted to capital investment and other measures for the development of nationally-owned and cooperative industry and agriculture. This item totals 40.1% of all expenditure. The next largest item is made up of social services, including education and health services. Nearly one third of all expenditure is to be devoted to these purposes in 1956, an increase of more than four percent on the 1955 figures.

German Anti-Franco Fighter Still in Spanish Jail

A German anti-fascist is serving a 30-year sentence in a Franco jail for his part in the anti-fascist struggle, it has just been learned .

The prisoner, Paul Keller, fought against the nazis in the ranks of the French maquis. In 1944, together with a group of Spanish Republican guerrillas, he crossed the frontier into Spain, and was captured by Franco's forces.

News that Keller was still held by the fascists was brought to the outside world by Josef Orlitsch, Austrian veteran of the International Brigades, who was released from Burgos jail at the end of 1955 on the intervention of the Austrian Government.

International Television Programme

The television service in Democratic Germany provided live broadcasts from abroad for the first time during the Winter Olympic Games in Cortina, Italy in January and February.

Television viewers were provided with live broadcasts of all the main events from Cortina through the facilities of the Italian Broadcasting System. Reception was very good, although the television technicians of the German Democratic Republic have had no previous experience of international links.

Since the West German television service was also transmitting the same pictures from Cortina, this was the first time in history that viewers in both West and East Germany were able to see the same pictures on their screens, although the running commentaries were different in East and West.

EAST GERMANS GO TO THEATRE MORE

East Germans go to the theatre about three times as frequently as people in West Germany, according to the latest available figures.

The report on the First Five Year Plan in the German Democratic Republic noted that a total of over 17 million people had attended theatre performances in the Republic during 1954 — an average of about one theatre visit annually for every man, woman and child.

Official West German statistics showed that in the same year about 19 million people had been to the theatre there — about one in three of the total population.

At the end of 1955 the German Democratic Republic had 88 theatres presenting regular programmes: West Germany, with a population about three times as large, had only 115 theatres regularly used.

* * *

The main reason for the enormous difference in frequency of theatre visits in the two parts of Germany, which were at just the same cultural level only eleven years ago, is the great support given to all cultural work by the Government of the German Democratic Republic. All theatres and opera houses receive big subsidies from the central and local authorities; theatre visits at greatly reduced prices are organised by trade unions and other organisations; and theatres in the provinces send out touring troupes which put on first class performances in every village which has an adequate stage.

A delegation of the British Actors' Equity Association which visited the German Democratic Republic in Autumn 1955 reported: "It may be mentioned here that the annual state help given to the arts in any one of the towns we visited exceeds considerably the entire annual Treasury grant to the Arts Council of Great Britain."

BOOKS RECEIVED

"North of the Seventeenth Parallel." By Wilfred Burchett. Published by the author, 2 Pham Su Manh, Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Wilfred Burchett, Australian journalist noted for his books on Germany, China and Korea, is now working in Democratic Vietnam. His new book tells of the way the people of North Vietnam are building a new life, and stresses that for the Vietnam people there is only one Vietnam, just as there is only one China, one Korea and one Germany.

GERMAN FACTORY IN CHINA

Chinese Technicians Learn From Friends

By Hsimen Lu-sha

The first beet sugar factory in Inner Mongolia was supplied and installed in 1954—1955 under the agreement for economic cooperation between People's China and the German Democratic Republic.

The planning of the plant, its designing and construction, the installation of machines and supervision of the first months' operation — all have been carried out with the help of experts from East Germany.

The equipment, produced in East Germany, embodies the most advanced experience of her sugar-manufacturing industry. Every process, from the water-propelled delivery of the raw beet from store to workshop to the automatic packing of the finished product, has been mechanised to the greatest possible degree.

People who worked with the East German experts were tremendously impressed by the way they had carried on cheerfully in all weathers, even when the temperature fell to 20 below zero and dust storms from the Gobi Desert were so fierce that it was difficult to see more than a few yards ahead.

Hsu Hung-lai, a skilled electrician, speaks with particular admiration of the electrical engineer Helmut Chumski, who came to the site in September 1954.

"I worked with him six months on the high-tension panel", he said. "We were short of experienced men and it was difficult to keep up with the schedule. He helped us never to fall behind and worked 18 hours a day himself when necessary. He's not the kind to just stand around giving orders. He said to me once: 'I have to use my hands; they're my tools. It isn't right to let tools lie around unused'"

"Comrade Chumski never let the smallest fault pass. 'In an electrical system everything must be perfect', he would say. 'Breakdowns are impermissible; they may affect the running of the whole factory.'"

In the last four months before production actually started the German experts — though very busy with a myriad final details — gave courses of lectures to the new workers.

Max Hrabowski, a man in his early fifties who has had 28 years' experience in sugar manufacturing, used to sit up till late at night preparing his talks. He always wrote these out in a very careful hand so that the interpreters could translate easily.

Lectures were also given beside the actual machines as they were installed one by one. Ma Hung-ping, a 22-year-old welder, told me how the German expert, Koehler, had spent a month teaching him to weld tubes for high-pressure boilers. "I kept failing", he said, "but he would never let me give up till I'd mastered the job. He was as pleased as I was when I finally got it. That man was really proud of our trade. One night when there was a social evening in Paotow he asked me whether I could dance. When I said no, he said 'You should learn. A welder ought to be good at everything!'"

The most exciting time, of course, was the test run of the plant, with its new machines and equipment that Chinese workers had never operated before. The German experts were everywhere at once. Not one of them worked less than fourteen hours a day. They missed their meals, lived on snacks and carefully watched the boilers, the calenders, the evaporators, every pipe and piece of machinery.

As each stage was successfully completed, the experts engaged in it went home to East Germany. When I got there only three remained of the ten who originally came. One was Max Hrabowski. The others were Erich Wolf, who had designed much of the machinery, and Horst Kretzschmar, an engineer who had come when the site was bare, and was still working on the night-shift.

Ho Jo-chieh, a young girl graduate from the Szechuan Chemical Engineering Institute, told me that her twenty months of work with the East German experts were the most memorable period of her life. "When we left the university," she said "we were all ambitious to be good engineers so that we could do our best for the country. But it was these German friends who taught us how engineers should work and act. They have no time for those who sit in offices and bury themselves in books and papers. They had us out on the job all the time, and kept saying that we must know as much about practical work as we do about theory."

Besides sugar, the factory already makes seven or eight tons of alcohol a day out of the molasses by-product. Max Hrabowski has been to Paotow to lecture on the uses to which beet pulp can be put by farmers.

Just before returning to Peking I went to the farewell meeting for Horst Kretzschmar, who was going back to East Germany. Fourteen workers, technicians and administrators spoke in the factory meeting-room. They said how sorry they were to see him go and promised to continue to work the way he had taught them. All of them asked Kretzschmar to take back their friendly good wishes to the German people.

Then people crowded up to give him parting gifts — paintings, photographs of themselves with their sweethearts, pieces of woven silk.

Kretzschmar was obviously moved as he rose to speak: "I have made many friends here" he said. "The feeling between us has been more than friendship; I cannot put it into words. When I return, I shall tell my countrymen about this factory, about your great country and its splendid people!"

(abridged from CHINA RECONSTRUCTS, February 1956)

Democratic
GERMAN REPORT

Subscription rates: 4 marks, 8/- sterling, $ 1.25 per annum or pro rata, postage paid.

Subscriptions may be paid at the following adresses:

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Britain: Collet's Subscription Dept, 45 Museum St. London W. C. 1

All other communications should be addressed to:

Democratic German Report,
Friedrichstrasse 167 III,
Berlin W 8,
Germany.

Reference Corner

GOVERNMENT OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Under the Constitution of the German Democratic Republic the strongest party in the People's Chamber (Parliament) names the Prime Minister, who then selects the cabinet.

At the elections held an October 17th 1954 an overwhelming majority of electors gave their votes to the coalition list of candidates presented by the National Front, composed of all the parties and mass organisations in the Republic.

After the elections, the Socialist Unity Party, which had the largest number of seats in the People's Chamber, nominated Otto Grotewohl as Prime Minister, and he selected his cabinet, a coalition list including members of all five parties, which was approved by the People's Chamber on November 19th 1954.

Since that date there have been a series of minor changes and re-shuffles in the cabinet, but its personnel is substantially the same as in 1954.

Many readers have requested an up-to-date cabinet list for reference purposes, and such a list, correct up to February 15th 1956 is presented on this page.

The party affiliations of the cabinet members are indicated after their names. The abreviations used as follows: SED = Socialist Unity Party; CDU = Christian Democratic Union; NDP = National Democratic Party; LDP = Liberal Democratic Party; DBP = Democratic Peasant Party.

An attempt has been made to indicate, in brackets, the pronunciation of the names of the members of the cabinet. These pronunciations are, of course, only approximate.

Prime Minister: OTTO GROTEWOHL, SED (pronounced Gro-te-vole)
First Deputy Prime Minister: WALTER ULBRICHT, SED (Ool-brikht)
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence: WILLI STOPH, SED (Shtoff)
Deputy Prime Minister: OTTO NUSCHKE, CDU (Noosh-ke)
D. P. M. responsible for All-German Questions: HANS LOCH, LDP (Lokh)
D. P. M. and Minister for Internal and External Trade: HEINRICH RAU, SED (Rou as in round)
D. P. M. and Foreign Minister: LOTHAR BOLZ, NDP (Boltz)
D. P. M. and Head of Supply Commission: FRED OELSSNER, SED (Erl-sner)
D. P. M. and Chairman of State Planning Commission: BRUNO LEUSCHNER, SED (Loish-ner)
D. P. M. and Head of Industry and Transport Commission: FRITZ SELBMANN, SED (Zelb-mann)
D. P. M. and Head of Agricultural Commission: PAUL SCHOLZ, DBP (Sholtz)
Minister of Interior: KARL MARON, SED (Mah-ron)
Minister of State Security: ERNST WOLLWEBER, SED (Voll-vayber)
Minister of Finance: WILLI RUMPF, SED (Roompf)
Minister of Heavy Engineering: ERICH APEL, SED (Ah-pel)
Minister of General Engineering: HELMUT WUNDERLICH, SED (Voon-der-likh)
Minister of Coal and Power: RICHARD GOSCHUETZ, SED (Gosh-ootz)
Minister of Mines and Foundries: RUDOLF STEINWAND, SED (Shtine-vahnd)
Minister of Justice: HILDE BENJAMIN, SED (Ben-ya-min)
Minister of Trade and Supply: CURT WACH, SED (Vakh)
Minister for the Food Industry: KURT WESTPHAL, SED (Vest-phahl)
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry: HANS REICHELT, SED (Ry-khelt)
Minister of Transport: ERWIN KRAMER, SED (Krah-mer)
Minister of Labour: FRIEDRICH MACHER, SED (Makher)
Minister of Light Industry: WILHELM FELDMANN, NDP
Minister of Health: LUITPOLD STEIDLE, CDU (Shty-dle)
Minister of Construction: HEINZ WINKLER, CDU (Vinkler)
Minister of Posts: FRIEDRICH BURMEISTER, CDU (Boor-my-ster)
Minister of Education: FRITZ LANGE, SED
Minister of Culture: JOHANNES R. BECHER, SED (Bekher)
Minister for the Chemical Industry: Not yet appointed.
President of the German Notenbank: GRETA KUCKHOFF, SED (Koock-hoff)
State Secretary for Agricultural Purchase: HERMANN STREIT, SED (Shtrite)
State Secretary for Universities: GERHARD HARIG, SED (Hah-rig)
State Secretary for Local Economy: KARL KASTEN, SED
Chairman of State Control Commission (Provisional): ERNST VABRA, SED (Vah-bra)
Chairman of the State Sport Commission: MANFRED EWALD, SED (Eh-vald)

700 FOREIGN STUDENTS IN EAST GERMANY

Chief Difficulty: Learning German

Seven hundred students from countries as far apart as China and Nigeria are now studying at various universities and technical institutes in the German Democratic Republic.

The students, who come from 21 different countries, met in Leipzig at the end of January to discuss their problems and how to overcome them. Since all these students receive free tuition, and in addition stipends of 230 marks per month, their main problems are not financial. In fact, some of the students at the rally suggested that the stipend could actually be reduced, since they were receiving more than enough to live on.

The main problem affecting nearly all students, the discussion disclosed, was the problem of learning German sufficiently well to be able to take full advantage of the university tuition as quickly as possible. All students arriving in Democratic Germany from foreign countries go through a special one-year course in the German language before they start their studies proper, but a number of the students have found that this one-year course is not enough. Various proposals were made for overcoming this difficulty, including the proposal that special simplified instruction texts should be worked out for the first period of their studies so that they could extend their knowledge of the language simultaneously with instruction in their special subject.

Students, particularly those coming from the colonial and underdeveloped countries, are encouraged to study subjects which will be of value in the independent development of these countries. The majority of the foreign students thus study engineering, mining engineering, agricultural science, economics and medicine. Full provision is made for special bents, however, and one student from Nigeria, for instance, is studying German language and literature.

The foreign students were unanimous in the opinion that they encountered no racial prejudice in the German Democratic Republic. Some complained, however, that living as they did in student hostels they did not have close enough contact with the ordinary man in the street. Arrangements are being made to overcome this difficulty, particularly during holiday periods, when foreign students will go to stay with German families.

One complaint made by the students which will not be easy to overcome was the question of food. Food was plentiful, they agreed, but many just could not get used to German cooking. Hostel authorities have made efforts to meet special wishes — more rice for the students from the Far East, for instance — but it is obviously impossible to provide the dozens of different menus which would be needed if all wishes were to be met.

The success of students and authorities in overcoming the difficulties is shown by the fact that, once the language barrier has been overcome, the foreign students are classed among the best students in their various subjects.

The foreign students now studying in the German Democratic Republic come from the following countries: Greece, Spain, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Columbia, Iceland, Finland, France, USA, Lebanon, Nigeria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Korea, Vietnam, Albania, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Rumania.

DEMOCRATIC GERMANY PUBLISHES ENGLISH, AMERICAN BOOKS

A series of first class classical and modern books in English is now being published in the German Democratic Republic in the "Panther Book" series. Below some of the main titles in this series are listed. Further details about Panther Books, and how you can get copies, are given on the back page of this issue.

"The Scalpel, The Sword" by Ted Allan und Sydney Gordon. (Double volume.) The story of Dr Norman Bethune, Canadian doctor in Spain and China.

"The Volunteers" by Steve Nelson. A personal account of the Spanish War of Independence.

"Goldsborough" by Stefan Heym. (Double volume). A novel about contemporary America.

"The Proud and the Free" by Howard Fast. (Double volume).

"The Gentle Bush" by Barbara Giles. (Double volume).

"I Knock at the Door" by Sean O'Casey.

"A Dream of John Ball" by William Morris.

"Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte. (Double volume).

"The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne. (Double volume).

"The American Century". A collection of modern American short stories, selected by Maxim Lieber. (Double volume).

(Panther Book double volumes cost 2,85 Marks: single volumes cost 1,85 Marks.)

Culture Group in India

The first cultural group from the German Democratic Republic to visit India arrived in that country at the end of January. The group, consisting of a number of leading musicians and ballet dancers, will give concerts in all parts of India.

"Born Yesterday" Barred

The Deutsches Theater in Democratic Berlin has had to abandon plans to produce "Born Yesterday" by Garson Kanin, and "Witch Hunt" by Arthur Miller, since the American holders of the rights in these plays have refused permission for their performance in the German Democratic Republic.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Modern German literature owes a great debt to the United States, for during the long night of Hitler fascism many great writers such as Thomas Mann, Lion Feuchtwanger and others found refuge there.

And they found not only refuge, but also a place to publish their books, books which would have been burned in nazi Germany.

Now that the book burners have crossed the Atlantic, Democratic Germany has begun to repay the debt by publishing, in English, books by American authors for which it is difficult or impossible to find publishers in the United States.

Quiet Start

The English-language book publishing project started quietly about two years ago, and for a while contented itself mainly with the publication of classics of British and American literature.

Now it has broken new ground with the first edition of an American book never published before: and it has turned out to be a best seller, a book which could sell tens of thousands of copies if it could be put on normal commercial sale in the United States.

The book is "The American Century", an anthology of contemporary short stories from the United States selected by Maxim Lieber.

Super-Duper

Book critics all too often use superlatives: now I am tempted to do so too. Holding myself back, and choosing my words with care, I would say that this volume is the finest work of fiction I have read in the last five years; and I have read quite a lot.

Who are the authors? Some of the names are familiar — Langston Hughes, Dorothy Parker, Ring Lardner; but most of the names were new to me.

In this "American Century" we are presented with 36 authors of all ages, from all parts of the United States. All of them write well, often with that high grade of technical efficiency which marks much modern American writing, even in the empty stories in the slick magazines.

But these writers are not just efficient craftsmen: they have something to say as well, and they say it with their hearts as well as their typewriters.

I know that many readers of GERMAN REPORT will be saying to themselves by this time: "That's all very fine telling us about this book, but we should like to read it." That is just what I am coming to. "Panther Books", the publishers of this series, want to put their books, including "The American Century", on sale in all parts of the world, but so far, for various reasons, distribution has not got going properly.

So we shall do what we can to help. We can't turn this office into a book export agency, so please do not send us any money or orders for Panther Books. If you are interested, do this instead: get your local bookseller to send an enquiry addressed to this office, and we shall hand it on to "Panther Books" and the book export authorities here. (Titles and prices of the main volumes in the Panther Book range are published on another page of this issue.)

Quick Action

But that is a long-term programme. In order to get copies of "The American Century" to as many parts of the world as possible as quickly as possible, we have ordered a stack of copies from the publishers, and we shall be glad to send a free copy to readers who give us the most effective help in the following ways:

a) writing us constructive letters telling us what they like in GERMAN REPORT, how they would like it improved, and what suggestions they have for articles in future issues.

b) sending us the names and addresses of friends and acquaintances who would like to receive sample copies of GERMAN REPORT.

All such letters should be sent to:

DGR
167 Friedrich Strasse
Berlin W 8
Germany

and should mention this offer to send a free copy of "The American Century". This offer does not apply to readers in the German Democratic Republic, who can buy copies of all Panther Books at any good booksellers.

Now we shall sit back and wait for the mail to start flowing in. We shall keep some copies in reserve for readers in far-off lands, so send us a letter even if you are living in New Zealand, Nepal or Nigeria. Only one copy of "The American Century" can be sent to any one reader, and since the supply is limited we can only send it to readers who send us really interesting and constructive letters.

BBC & Gestapo

Readers in Britain will be interested in the fact that former Gestapo agents are engaged by the BBC to speak to East Germany. Here are the facts on this scandal. The BBC broadcasts a special programme in German directed to listeners in the German Democratic Republic.

If you had tuned in to this programme on Sunday, February 5th at 8.30 p.m., you would have heard a political speech by a West Berlin politician named Karl-Hubert Schwennicke. What he had to say was not very important: it was the usual sort of speeech about "liberal and democratic principles" and "the duty of West Germans to bring freedom to their friends in the Soviet Zone of Germany."

What is more interesting is who this Herr Schwennicke is. In front of me as I write lies a photostatic copy of the war-time employment record of this man. It was found at the end of the Second World War in the files of the electrical firm Siemens in Berlin, and defines his work in these words: "Department head dealing with office employees, and security agent of the Gestapo."

Never Denied

This photostat was published on June 20th 1952 in GERMAN REPORT, but Herr Schwennicke has never made any attempt, to my knowledge, to question its authenticity, or to deny that he was a Gestapo agent.

And now this Gestapo agent is allowed to speak on the BBC, in the name of Britain, about freedom and democracy. It is easy to imagine what sort of reputation the BBC gets as a result.

This is only one small example of the scandalous things being done in the name of Britain by the German service of the BBC. I expect to return to the subject in an early number of GERMAN REPORT.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet. Democratic German Report. Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8, Telephone 22 29 68. Printed in Germany by (36). Veröffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 694 beim Presseamt des Ministerpräsidenten der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik